

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT The SED and the Munich Conference

25X1C

ORIGIN  
25X1X

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Chiefs of the United States

1. [REDACTED] the SED's first reaction to Ehard's invitation to the minister-presidents was one of surprise. An attempt was then made to find out who initiated the plan. The Bavarian KPD informed SED headquarters that the idea originated with USMG. Munich was allegedly selected because the KPD has no official representation in the Bavarian government and thus could be kept in the dark. 25X1X
2. [REDACTED] the SED leaders remained undecided. Otto Grotewohl and other ex-SED functionaries argued that the SED could not afford to refuse the invitation. Ulbricht finally yielded to this argument but insisted that the Russian Zone delegates must find a pretext to leave the conference before deliberations could begin. The SED then drew up the text of a communique announcing the reasons for this withdrawal. This text was taken along by Rudolf Paul, Minister-President of Thuringia, for use as soon as possible after arrival. Once the pretext had been found, Paul issued the communique to the press, merely adding a first and last paragraph. The LDP Minister-President of Saxony-Anhalt, Dr. Hübner, was not included in the SED discussions and had no knowledge of the communique issued in the name of all five minister-presidents. On Thursday morning, 5 June, Anton Ackermann, SED press chief, told source that the Russian Zone minister-presidents would return from Munich by Friday morning at the latest. 25X1X
3. In Berlin and the Russian Zone, [REDACTED] the SED was able to gain the official support of the LDP for the course taken by the SED representatives in Munich. In addition, Dr. Friedensburg of the CDU publicly stated his belief that the SED ministers had acted in good faith. These developments discredited Grotewohl and other SED leaders who had favored full cooperation by the SED at Munich and left Ulbricht in complete triumph. 25X1X
4. [REDACTED] Ulbricht has recently had numerous conferences with officers of the "West" department of SMA who have encouraged him to attack American influence in the economy of Western Germany. He is to attempt especially to carry this propaganda to the trade unions in the western zones. For this purpose Ulbricht is organizing a confidential information service for the use of KPD papers and functionaries. This information service deals exclusively with examples of "plundering by western capitalism". 25X1X

Document No. 1

NO CHANGE in Class.

DECLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000700680009-5

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1783